

63-3498

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Action Memorandum No. A-208

Date 26 April 1963

TO : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Final Plan for Low-level Reconnaissance of Cuba

REFERENCE:

1. The Director has informed me that the President, at yesterday's meeting at the White House, approved three low-level missions (two aircraft each) on a trial basis after Mr. Harriman had returned from his trip. The Director has instructed me to review this entire matter and develop the three most desirable missions on the basis of highest priority, most important targets on which we have acute intelligence requirements that are unattainable or unverifiable by high-level flights. We will want the most persuasive arguments for establishing these requirements for low-level flights, particularly as to unidentified or unknown targets and construction areas. We should include one of the four combat command camps. Our justification should be specific and should not be based on the need for acquiring technical intelligence or increasing our total inventory of intelligence. We should plan our missions so that the aircraft spend a minimum amount of time over the island.

2. This is to be a CIA paper which I will cable to the Director for his approval prior to submission to the President. It is not a COMOR or NRO paper but you should probably use the [] flight-planning information (Colonel [] for determining the optimum sorties within the above parameters.

3. This requirement, as you might well imagine, has a considerable degree of urgency. If you or your people need any further information,

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please contact me soonest. I would expect the paper could be done entirely "in-house" and it does not require coordination or concurrence outside of the Agency.

/s/ MSC/ b/p

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

MSC:blp

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